

REMARKS

Summary of the Office Action

The Examiner required restriction under 35 U.S.C. § 121 between Species a (“fig. 4-5 [first embodiment]”), Species b (“fig. 6-7 [second embodiment]”), Species c (“fig. 8-9 [third embodiment]”), Species d (“fig. 9-10 [fourth embodiment]”), Species e (“fig. 11-12 [fifth embodiment]”), and Species f (“fig. 13-14 [sixth embodiment]”).

Election of Species in Response to the Office Action

Applicant hereby elects Species a (“fig. 4-5 [first embodiment]”) for examination. The claims readable on the elected species are claims 1, 4, 7, 8, 11, 14 and 15. Claims 14 and 15 having been newly added by the Preliminary Amendment filed concurrently herewith. Moreover, claims 1 and 8 are generic to the elected species as well as to Species c (claims 2 and 9, respectively), Species d (claims 3 and 10, respectively), and Species f (claims 14 and 15, respectively).

Applicant respectfully requests formal examination of this application.

Of course, Applicant reserves the right to file one or more divisional applications, directed to the non-elected species, during the pendency of the subject matter described in the present application.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that the application is in condition for examination, and respectfully requests reconsideration and timely allowance of the pending claims. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative to expedite prosecution. A favorable action is awaited.

EXCEPT for issue fees payable under 37 C.F.R. § 1.18, the Commissioner is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any additional fees during the entire pendency of this application including fees due under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required, including any required extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0573. This paragraph is intended to be a **CONSTRUCTIVE PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME** in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3).

Respectfully submitted,

DRINKER BIDDLE & REATH LLP

Dated: August 30, 2006

By: 

Scott J. Anchell
Reg. No. 35,035

Customer No. 055694
DRINKER BIDDLE & REATH LLP
1500 K Street, N.W., Suite 1100
Washington, DC 20005-1209
Tel.: (202) 842-8800
Fax: (202) 842-8465